

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03

L-03 INT-08 SCEM-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 131700Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5152

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRN, EI

SUBJ: IRISH PETROLEUM SUPPLY SITUATION; CIVAIR - FUEL SITUATION

REF: STATE 222498, 221740

SUMMARY: WHILE GOI SPOKESMAN STATES RESPONSE TO EARLY
NOVEMBER APPEAL FOR VOLUNTARY REDUCTION IN PETROLEUM USE
"DISAPPOINTING," SUPPLY RESERVES REMAIN AT 60-DAY LEVEL.
GOI OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT RATION BOOKS PREPARED,
BUT DID NOT EXPECT THEY WOULD BE NEEDED; HE INDICATED
IRISH SUPPLY SITUATION SIMILAR TO OTHER EC MEMBERS EXCEPT
HOLLAND AND SAID THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF JET FUEL.
OPPOSITION PRESS CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT "COMPLACENCY". IRISH
AIRLINE REPORTS IT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY
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US CARRIERS RE CUTS IN TRANSATLANTIC SCHEDULES, WHICH

ALREADY REDUCED FOR WINTER SEASON. HOWEVER, AIRLINE
WOULD UNDERTAKE RATIONALIZATION IF JUSTIFIED. END SUMMARY.

1. IRISH TIMES NOVEMBER 13 REPORTS IRISH AIRLINE HAS
NOT RPT NOT BEEN APPROACH BY EITHER PAN AM OR TWA
TO DISCUSS CUTBACKS IN SERVICES ON NORTH ATLANTIC
ROUTES (STATES 222498). TIMES NOTED THAT ALL THREE
CARRIERS WERE OPERATING BETWEEN IRELAND AND US ON
GREATLY REDUCED WINTER SCHEDULES, WITH US CARRIERS
RUNNING ONLY ONE FLIGHT PER WEEK EACH AND IRISH AIR-
LINES RUNNING 12 FLIGHTS PER WEEK IN EACH DIRECTION.
AIRLINE SPOKESMAN NOTED SIZEABLE SAVINGS ON
FUEL WERE BEING MADE BY MEASURES ALREADY ANNOUNCED
(REDUCTION OF CRUISING SPEED ON TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS
EXPECTED TO SAVE 800,000 GALLONS PER ANNUM) AND
OTHER MEASURES WERE BEING EXAMINED. NO CHANGES IN
SCHEDULES WERE CONTEMPLATED, BUT SPOKESMAN SAID
AIRLINE WOULD NOT RPT NOT ADOPT "HARD AND FAST LINE"
IF APPROACHED. IF IT COULD BE SHOWN THAT SAVINGS
WOULD BE EFFECTED BY RATIONALIZATIONS, AIRLINE WOULD
BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THEM.

2. TIMES AND IRISH PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT GOI SPOKES-
MAN INDICATED NOVEMBER 12 THAT NATIONAL PETROLEUM
RESERVES HAD REMAINDER UNCHANGED, STANDING AT ABOUT
60 DAYS SUPPLY. NEVERTHELESS, SPOKESMAN CHARACTERIZED
RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 2 CALL BY MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
& POWER FOR PUBLIC, COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE USERS TO
CUT BACK ON CONSUMPTION AS "DISAPPOINTING." APPEAL
HAD BEEN DESIGNED REDUCE CONSUMPTION BY 10 PERCENT
DURING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. CURRENT INDUSTRIAL
DISPUTE IN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD HAS PRODUCED
POWER CUTS WHICH HAVE TEMPORARILY HELPED SITUATION.
SPOKESMAN SAID THAT RATION BOOKS HAD BEEN PREPARED
TO COVER GASOLINE AND CENTRAL HEATING OIL SUPPLIES,
AND DECISION ON WHETHER TO RATION WOULD BE TAKEN LATER
IN THE WEEK.

3. IRISH TIMES REPORTED THAT ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF OIL USED
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IN IRELAND CONSUMED BY ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND
LARGE INDUSTRY, 20 PERCENT FOR CENTRAL HEATING.
AGRICULTURE AND SMALL INDUSTRY, 15 PERCENT FOR GASOLINE,
AND 7 PERCENT FOR AVIATION FUEL.

4. IRISH PRESS, WHICH REPRESENTS OPPOSITION FIANNA FAIL,
COMPLAINED EDITORIALY THAT GOI WAS TAKING DANGEROUSLY
COMPLACENT ATTITUDE, AND QUOTED SPOKESMEN AT WHITEGATE

REFINERY AND WHIDDY ISLAND GULF OIL DEPOT THAT LONG-TERM PROSPECT QUESTIONABLE. PRESS NOTED OTHER EC MEMBERS HAD TAKEN SPECIFIC MEASURES TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION, WHILE GOI HAD MERELY MADE APPEALS AND VAGUE CONTINGENCY PLANS. PRESS IMPLIED THAT GOI WAS TAKING COMPLACENT ATTITUDE IN ORDER INFLUENCE DAIL BY-ELECTION TAKING PLACE NOVEMBER 27.

5. USING NEWS STORIES AS OPENING, ECON/COMMOFF DISCUSSED FUEL SITUATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER FUEL SPECIALIST RYDER, WHO SEEMED RELAXED ABOUT SITUATION. HE CONFIRMED PERCENTAGES BREAKDOWN IN PETROLEUM USAGE DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 3, AND INDICATED SPECIFICALLY THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO SHORTAGE OF AVIATION FUEL (STATE 221740). IN REPOSE TO QUERY HE CHARACTERIZED IRISH FUEL SUPPLY SITUATION AS ABOUT THE SAME AS OTHER EC MEMBERS EXCEPT FOR HOLLAND; HE NOTED THAT REDUCTION IN SUPPLY FROM UK WHICH "MAY" HAVE TAKEN PLACE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE UP. RYDER CONFIRMED THAT CONTINGENCY PLANS HAD BEEN MADE FOR RATIONING, BUT DOUBTED WHETHER THEY WOULD BE USED. SORENSON

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